

REMARKS

Claims 17 and 40 have been amended to address various informalities noted by the Examiner. No new matter has been added. A marked-up version of the claim amendments follows this response.

In response to the requirement for Restriction, Applicants elect the invention of Group I, claims 1-29, and 39, drawn to ligands of the prion protein and compositions thereof. Applicants additionally elect the invention of Group C, wherein the ligand is a polypeptide. Applicants elect the species IFFWIK, which corresponds to SEQ ID NO:23.

Applicants note that Examiner's parenthetical comments accompanying the description of Group II and in particular the Examiner's statement that "[a]mino resins will be considered as polypeptide ligands for prosecution purposes absent reasons to distinguish therebetween". Applicants note that resins containing amino resins are distinct from peptide ligands used to identify prions. A ligand that specifically detects prions is attached to a resin, which can be a resin containing amino groups. The ligand itself can be a peptide ligand and thus include amino groups. However, peptide ligands including amino groups are distinct from the amino resins to which the ligands can be attached.

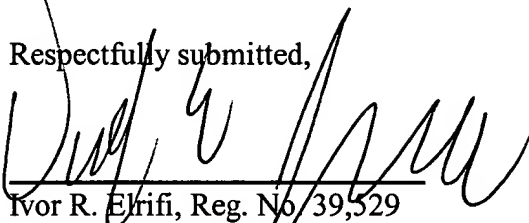
Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Should any questions or issues arise concerning the application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

A petition for extension of time accompanies this response. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any filing fees required in connection with the papers transmitted

herewith, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311 (Reference No. 18242-507).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ivor R. Elrifi', written over a horizontal line.

Ivor R. Elrifi, Reg. No. 39,529

David E. Johnson, Reg. No. 41,874

Attorneys for Applicants

c/o MINTZ, LEVIN

One Financial Center

Boston, Massachusetts 02111

Tel: (617) 542-6000

Fax: (617) 542-2241

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Marked-Up Version Showing Claim Amendments

17. (Amended) The peptide ligand of claim 7, wherein said peptide ligand comprises the amino acid sequence of a peptide [of Table 1 (SEQ IDs 3-30)] with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs: 3-29 or SEQ ID NO:30.

40. (Amended) A method of detecting the presence of a prion protein in a biological fluid, the method comprising

- c) contacting the biological fluid with the ligand of claim 1 under conditions sufficient to cause formation of a complex between said prion protein, if present, in said biological fluid and said [peptide] ligand; and
 - d) detecting said complex,
- thereby detecting the presence of a prion protein in said biological fluid.